

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro.

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No. 38

WILL THE NEGROES ELECT TAFT OR WILSON FOR PRESIDENT?

The colored voter now stands face to face with the great question of the proper use of his electoral franchise. Under the normal conditions 2,000,000 of the 20,000,000 votes which might be cast at a presidential election would belong to the race, and some day, despite every effort of fraud and race prejudice, those votes are going to be cast.

Today, however, of the 15,000,000 or more votes which will actually be cast for President, some 500,000 will be black men's votes.

What shall we do with these 500,000 ballots?

First of all we must teach ourselves to regard them seriously. The Negro-American is not disfranchised; on the contrary, he is a half a million votes this side of disfranchisement and that is a long, long way. There have been but two or three presidential elections since the war which have not been settled by a margin of less than a half million votes, and in every single election since the proslavery compromise of 1850 such a number of votes distributed at strategic points would easily have decided the presidency.

The votes of the black Americans are today at strategic points. We may, of course, leave the South out of account: on account of illegal enactments and brazen fraud, democratic government exists in the South only in inchoate and incomplete form. The presidential election is probably going to be decided by the Middle West and the States of New York and New Jersey. New York and Ohio have each between 40,000 and 50,000

colored votes; New Jersey, Illinois and Indiana have each 30,000 or more. Is there any political prophet who would risk his reputation on the possibility of any one of these States being carried by more than 20,000 majority? There may be majorities of 50,000 or 100,000 in one or two of the States, but the chances are that the colored voters hold the balance of power in every one of their States and thus have the power to say whether William Howard Taft or Woodrow Wilson shall be the next President.

If colored America had long political experience and wide knowledge of men and measures, it would organize the black voters of each State into a solid phalanx. It would say to this phalanx: white and colored voters in this land are selling their votes too cheaply. By the use of a "slush fund" of \$3,000,000 Theodore Roosevelt was able almost to split the Republican party. You could easily sell your votes next November for one or two millions of dollars, but that is too cheap. You could easily sell your votes for an Assistant Attorney-General, a Register of the Treasury, a Recorder of Deeds and a few other black wooden men whose duty it is to look pleasant, say nothing and have no opinions that a white man is bound to respect. This also is too cheap—it is dirt cheap.

What price would you ask for 500,000 votes, black America? You should ask this:

1. The abolition of the interstate "Jim Crow" car.

2. The enforcement of the Thirteenth Amendment by the sup-

pression of peonage.

3. The enforcement of the Fourteenth Amendment by cutting down the representation in Congress of the rotten boroughs of the South.

4. National aid to elementary public schools without class or racial discrimination.

Is this price too much to pay for a presidency? It is not if you dare ask it.

Who then would pay it? Would William Howard Taft pay it? There has not been in the presidential chair for fifty years a man so utterly lacking in initiative and ideal as Mr. Taft. His abject surrender to Southern prejudice and reaction has been simply pitiable; He began his career by defending disfranchisement; he followed this by promising to appoint no black man to office if any white man protested; and in spite of the fact that over 200 Negroes have been publicly murdered without trial during his administration, the utmost that 10,000,000 black men have elicited from his lips is a hesitating statement that he is sorry—and helpless. Any colored man who votes for Mr. Taft will do so on the assumption that zero is better than minus one.

As to Mr. Wilson, there are, one must confess, disquieting facts: he was born in Virginia and he was long president of a college which did not admit Negro students and yet was not honest enough to say so, resorting rather to subterfuge and evasion. A man, however, is not wholly responsible for his birthplace or his college. On the whole, we do not believe that Woodrow Wilson admires Negroes.

Left to himself, we suspect he would be like Mr. Johnson, the new dean of Yale. Mr. Johnson is a Southerner, and recently told a colored applicant that Yale did not want "Chinese, Jews or Negroes." The ideal of such folk would be a world inhabited by flaxen-haired wax dolls with or without brains.

Notwithstanding such possible preferences, Woodrow Wilson is a cultivated scholar and he has brains. We know that there are several hundred millions of "Chinese, Jews and Negroes" who have to be reckoned with, and that the date at which the "blond beast" will inherit the earth has been, to put it mildly, indefinitely postponed. We have therefore, a conviction that Mr. Wilson will treat black men and their interests with farsighted fairness. He will not be our friend, but he will not belong to the gang of which Tillman, Vardaman, Hoke Smith and Blease are the brilliant expositors. He will not advance the cause of oligarchy in the South, he will not seek further means of "Jim Crow" insult, he will not dismiss black men wholesale from office, and he will remember that the Negro in the United States has a right to be heard and considered; and if he becomes President by the grace of the black man's votes, his Democratis successors may be willing to pay the black man's price of decent travel, free labor, votes and education.

Outside of these two men, what else? We thank God that Theodore Roosevelt has been eliminated. How many black men, with the memory of Brownsville, could support such a man passes our comprehension.

—The Crisis

THE SEASIDE CAFETERIA CHANGES HANDS

Mrs. S. L. Nichols and Miss S. Alston have purchased the Seaside Cafeteria and Ice Cream Parlor at 1511 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica. They entertained the Federation of Women's Clubs last Saturday on their trolley trip to Santa Monica.

THE LYCEUM'S BANQUET A RECORD BREAKER

Patronized by the Best People of the City

The Lyceum's Banquet at Wesley M. E. Church was attended by one of the most brilliant assemblages that ever gathered in the splendid dining hall of Wesley M. E. Church. Wesley has been the scene of many brilliant assemblages, but the assemblage that gathered there on the 30th marks a new departure in the history of the race in this city. It was the first time that the business, professional and lay members of the race sat down together around a banquet table to devise ways and means of bringing about closer business and social relations—to the end that race enterprises be fostered and encouraged and the race be brought in unison in all matters looking to its advancement. Such a meeting had been suggested time and again by many of the leading men and women of the city, but how to make such a meeting a success was the question. Acting upon the suggestion Mr. G. Walter Snell, chairman of the Lyceum's program committee, suggested to the Lyceum that it take the matter of the banquet up. As Mr. Snell is preparing to leave the State, as representative of the Harding Land Company, of Roseburg, Oregon, he was anxious to take part in such a meeting before leaving. As a result, the people of every class generously responded and the sixty ladies and gentlemen who honored the occasion with their presence, were the big colored men and women of the city,—big in love of race, big in aspiration, big in ambition to do things and play honorable parts in the making of a race. Among those seated around the banquet table were ministers of the gospel, lawyers, physicians, merchants, newspaper men, contractors and day laborers—sinews without which no race can succeed.

Seated around the table were

Secy. and Mrs. T. A. Greene of the Y. M. C. A., Rev. W. J. J. Byers, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Daugherty, Rev. E. T. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Prentice, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Lott, Atty. and Mrs. Ceruti, Rev. E. F. Henderson, Mr. J. Thos. Norris, Mr. G. Walter Snell, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Spigner, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Ashford, Mr. Eugene Walker, Dr. Leggett, Dr. Somerville, Atty. A. McDowell, J. L. Edmonds, Jr., B. K. Edmonds, Mr. R. A. Davis, Mr. Herbert Flint, Mr. Thompson, Mr. V. W. Morris, Mr. W. H. Joyce, Prof. W. E. Easton, Mrs. E. Pryor, Mr. S. S. Irving, Mr. Frank Mouser, Mr. Wm. Telle, Mr. W. C. Harding, Mr. Foster, Mr. Govan Dowdy, Mr. J. W. Coleman, W. T. Henderson and Mr. H. A. Reeves.

We regret that there were many present whose names our representative failed to secure, among whom there were many young men accompanied by their best girls. Many business men and women who could not be present sent hearty greetings, promising their hearty cooperation in whatever was done.

Among the business men and women who were present were Mr. Eugene Walker, merchant tailor, Mr. Herbert Flint, who represented his father, Mr. C. C. Flint, the grocer and who could not be present, Mr. C. H. Daugherty, grocer of Washington and Santa Fe Ave., Mr. W. H. Joyce, the grocer of 1522 W. 35th Place, Mr. R. A. Davis, the cement contractor, Mr. B. K. Edmonds of the Edmonds-Kajaira Produce Co., of Sawtelle, Mr. and Mrs. Prentice, dry goods and notions, East 9th St., Mrs. Thomas, 411 E. 7th St., ladies' tailor, Mr. W. C. Harding, president of the Harding Land Co., Roseburg, Oregon, Rev. E. F. Henderson and Mr. T. Alexander, real estate. Mr. H. A. Reeves represented the juuk dealers.

Toasts.

Mr. J. Thomas Norris, president of the Lyceum, introduced the Editor of this journal as toast-

master, who, after expressing his appreciation of the honor, introduced Secy T. A. Greene, who responded to the toast—the Y. M. C. A. In a few brief sentences, he told of the needs and object of the Y. M. C. A. He stated that the business of making men was the first and most important business of a community, therefore the Y. M. C. A. is performing a task second in importance to none. "The Child" was responded to by Rev. W. J. J. Byers, who stated that the child is the forerunner of the man and therefore it is the duty of both the Church and state to throw around the child every possible protection, securing to it every means of development to the end that the child become a desirable man. He urged the importance of proper home training and proper environments for the youths of the land. Mrs. Prentiss who read an excellent paper on the business woman, captured the honors of the evening and placed the women in the front rank of our business people. Atty. E. Burton Ceruti, responding to the toast, "Secret Societies," told of the important place the societies occupied in the development of the race and deprecated the tendency of the race to divide up into factions at a time when unity is so necessary. Responding to the toast "Negro Authors," Prof. Easton, author of "Dessalanes," and other valuable books, made one of the happiest speeches of the evening. Mr. J. W. Coleman, the well-known employment agent, delivered a speech that was both amusing and instructive. He stated that in the past six years he had secured employment for twelve thousand colored persons and stated that in his line he was succeeding nicely, delivering and receiving the goods in a way that defied competition. Mr. L. P. Ashford, the laundry man requested only a chance and he would keep everybody clean. Mr. S. S. Irving represented the tonsorial artists of the city.

Many persons who could not be present bought tickets to assist

in taking care of the financial end of the banquet, among whom were: Mr. Geo. S. Brown, proprietor of the Golden West Hotel, three tickets; Mr. J. L. Holt, caterer, two tickets; Rev. William Shipley, two tickets; Mr. L. A. Handley, City Clerk, one ticket; Dr. J. S. Outlaw, one ticket and there were others whose names we failed to secure.

Among those who labored to make the banquet the success it was, none deserve more credit than do Mmes. S. H. Green, J. Thos. Norris, G. Walter Snell and Mrs. Dallas. Without the services of the ladies named, it would have been impossible to have made the banquet the success it proved to be.

Everything used at the banquet was supplied by the colored business men. The rolls which were so much enjoyed by the banqueters were made by Mr. Kinard, the baker.

Although the banquet was the first of the kind ever attempted in the city, it was an immense success from every point of view. In point of interest created among the people and of the character of those who attended, of the intelligence displayed in response to the toasts, it was a success.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Mrs. S. A. Jackson and daughters of Sacramento, will arrive in this city Sept. 1st to spend six weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bedney.

Mrs. Ross and son, of Arizona, are stopping at 829 Hemlock St.

Mr. Jacob Soares, of Sacramento, a former citizen of this city, is here attending the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows. Mr. Soares left here more than twelve years ago to fill the position of Governor's Messenger and served successfully under Governors Gage, Pardee and Gillette. He is said to know more of the law making people than any other man in the State. He is now holding a po-

sition in the Comptroller's office.

THE PROGRESS CAME BACK

We are pleased to know that the *Weekly Progress* which was temporarily suspended on account of internal difficulties has come back. We extend congratulations.

The Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, now in session in this city, is composed of a splendid body of representative men from all sections of the state. The order of Odd Fellows is the strongest secret society in this state among the colored people. They own much valuable property and distribute annually large sums of money to widows and orphans and other dependents.

ANNIVERSARY DAY

Sunday, Aug. 4 was anniversary day at the E. Eighth St. Christian Church, ending the first year of Bro. D. L. McMickens Pastoral charge, a day to be remembered by all who attended any of the services. Bro. McMickens preached the Anniversary sermon at 11 a. m. At 3 p. m. Bro. W. J. J. Byers preached, at which time Wesley Chapel Choir rendered excellent music. A rally ended the day and quite a sum was realized.

Full account of the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge proceedings next week. "No story is completely and entertainingly told till told in *The Liberator*. After I have read *The Liberator* I make my decision." —Subscriber.

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THE COLOR LINE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE TO BE RIGIDLY ENFORCED

The indorsement of Supervisor Pridham for reelection by the Lissner machine fully discloses the policy it intends to pursue with respect to the Negro. To Supervisor Pridham is due the refusal to admit colored girls to the nurse-training school of the County Hospital. That is undoubtedly the most outrageous piece of injustice ever perpetrated upon the Negroes of this state and if allowed to be permanently successful will lay the foundations for the denial to them

of every manhood right. With the Lissner machine indorsement, shows that Mr. Pridham's position in closing the nurse training school to Negro girls on account of color was the result of a pre-arranged policy. A policy to force out and keep out of the public service all Negroes. The sneaking means adopted by which the Negroes were gotten out of the parks and their teams let out of the street department and the juggling of the civil service to keep any more of them from getting into the police and fire departments, is now made plain. And the duty of the Negro voters is made equally plain—and that is that every candidate for office that has the Lissner indorsement must be voted solidly against by the Negroes, for can any man get the Lissner indorsement without agreeing to be governed by his dictation? The Lissner indorsement of Supervisor Pridham uncovers the whole wretched plot and no Negro with a spark of manhood in him can stand sponsor or support any candidate wearing the Lissner Yoke.

In many of the districts the Negroes will have the balance of power at the September primaries. This is true in several districts represented by a progressive or Lissner candidates. In each such case, the solid Negro vote must be cast against him. If this is done, and it must be done, the men responsible for drawing the color line in the public service, will be defeated.

The position taken by Mr. Lissner, the chief Roosevelt shouter in this State, and political boss, coupled with the attitude toward the Negroes, assumed by Mr. Roosevelt at Chicago, shows the Negroes what they may expect from a Roosevelt triumph, whether local or national.

If the colored women voters in Mr. Pridham's district do their duty, he hasn't a ghost of a show. There is certainly not a Negro man in that district so low, unmanly, contemptible and base enough to support Mr. Pridham. Think of a Negro man voting for

a white man who brazenly closes the door of hope to respectable Negro women because they are black. The hottest place in Hades would be too cool for such a Negro.

A DISGRACEFUL AFFAIR

If reports are true, and we have no reason to doubt them, the Baptist Union picnic at Playa del Rey July 26th was a disgrace to every person connected with it. The taking of several thousand Sunday School children to a notorious whiskey joint for a picnic is absolutely without excuse, especially when the whole town had been ransacked by advertising the affair in all the dives to secure a big crowd in order that the revenue of ten cents per head could be secured by congregating in one place the children of tender age with an indiscriminate rabble. The ministers of the gospel and promoters of an affair that was so disgraceful knew that whiskey was sold at Playa del Rey and their previous experience at Alamitos Bay leaves them without any excuse for the drunkenness and disorder that the Sunday School children witnessed at Playa del Rey. There were not only drunken women, but girls of tender age too intoxicated to properly care for themselves. And the fights that frequently took place between men and women would not be tolerated by the police in a bawdy district.

There has been many denials of those disgraceful scenes, but we have the sad facts here stated from reliable people, both white and black, who were at the picnic. The whiskey men boast that they sell more whiskey at these S.S. Union picnics than they do any other day in the year. It is estimated by persons in a position to know, that \$1,500.00 was taken in from the sale of whiskey and beer.

Discussing that disgraceful affair, a Baptist minister said that he did not allow his children to attend, knowing that it would be no fit place for them. That being true, it was certainly a poor place for any one else's child. If where

whiskey is sold is the only place colored ministers can secure for Sunday School picnics, they should be abandoned for all time to come, leaving each individual family free to take their children to the beach for a day's outing. What is said in this connection, is said with sincere regret, but we know of no other way to prevent our innocent boys and girls from witnessing such disgraceful scenes but the publication of them that they may be seen in all their hideousness. It has also been stated that some of the colored professional men were seen brazenly drinking beer in the pavilion in the presence of women and children. No man or set of men with religious pretensions should take their Sunday Schools to a place where intoxicating liquors are sold.

We hope that the above charge is not true. "It is well, however to avoid even the appearance of evil."

Members of the Booker T. Washington Art Club were entertained at the residence of Mrs. Givens on East 32nd St. Thursday, Aug. 1. the guest of Mrs. Givens and daughter, Mrs. Laurey. A large number

of club members and friends of the hostesses were present.

Quite an enjoyable afternoon was spent. Refreshments of ice cream, coffee and home baked cakes were served.

Both Mrs. Givens and Mrs. Laurey are charming entertainers. Every one present expressed their desire to return again soon. The next meeting will be at the residence of Mrs. Harvey on East 28th Street.

Miss Anna Meyer of Ottumwa, Iowa, who has been residing in Pasadena, Cal., for the past eighteen months, left for her home Monday evening Aug. 5. Before leaving, Miss Meyer visited a week at the residence of Mrs. J. W. Payne, the guest of Mrs. Payne and daughter Mrs. Bell.

A few of the West Side ladies gave a private picnic at Sycamore Grove Sunday, Aug. 4 in honor of Mrs. Thompson, of Phoenix, Ariz. and Miss Meyers, of Ottumwa, Iowa. All reported a splendid day.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. R. Reed of East Hollywood, Friday, Aug. 2, a baby girl.



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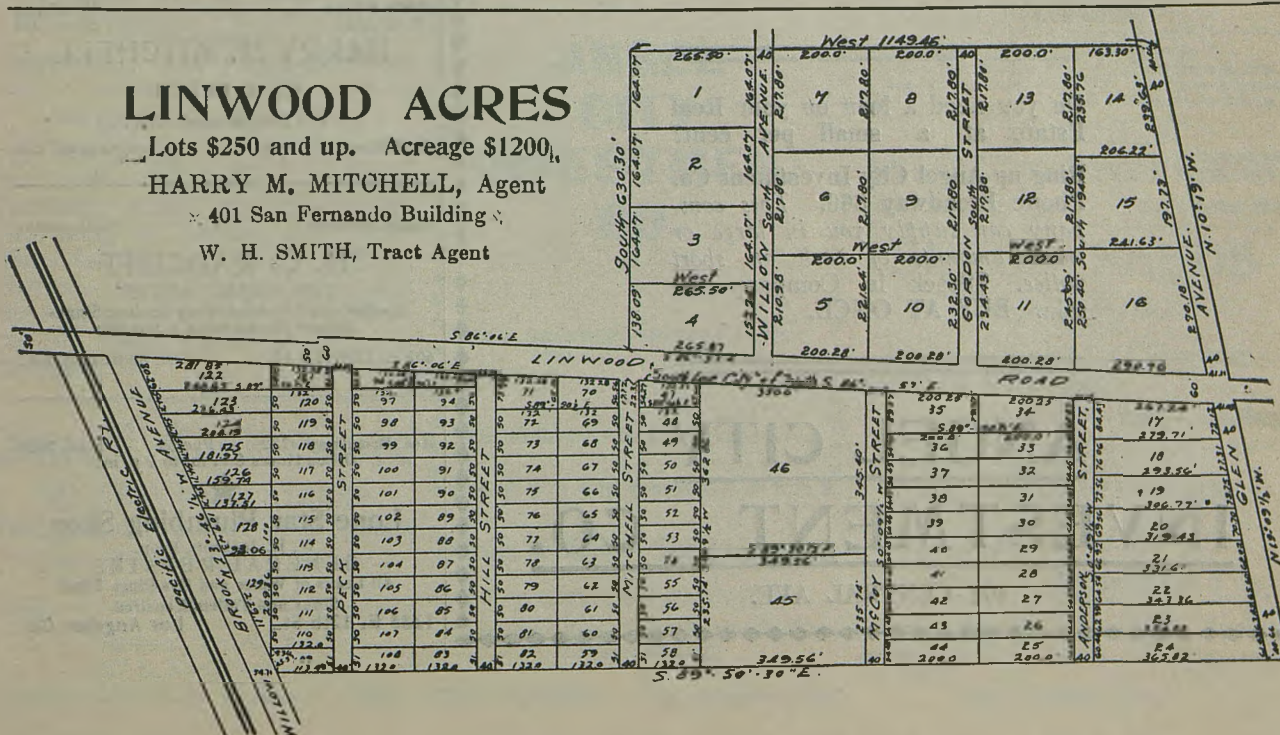
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